

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on July 28, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

No claims are amended, and no claims are canceled or added; as a result, claims 1-45 are now pending in this application.

Restriction/Election

Restriction to one of the following claims was required:

I. Claims 1-20, and 31-45 drawn to switching control circuit classified in class 363, subclass 16.

II. Claims drawn to 21-30, classified in class imaging system, subclass 327/434.

Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-20 and 31-45. The restriction requirement is traversed, at least in part, on the basis that Restriction Requirements are optional in all cases. MPEP 803. As the section further states, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits.

Applicant notes that each independent claim (viz., claims 1, 21, 31, 39, and 43) relates, at least in part, to capturing energy using a switching circuit that provides at least a portion of that energy to another circuit and/or to storage. For example, independent apparatus claim 1 in Group I recites:

a switching circuit;
a control circuit coupled to the switching circuit; and
a biasing snubber circuit coupled to the switching circuit
and the control circuit to capture energy from a circuit switched
by the switching circuit and to provide at least a portion of the
captured energy to bias the control circuit.

Independent system claim 21 of Group II includes an imaging subsystem element which includes language also found in claim 1 of Group I. For example, independent claim 21, recites in part:

a switching circuit;

a control circuit coupled to the switching circuit; and
a biasing snubber circuit coupled to the switching circuit
and the control circuit, wherein the biasing snubber circuit captures

energy from a circuit switched by the switching circuit and wherein biasing snubber circuit provides at least a portion of the captured energy to bias the control circuit.

Moreover, claim 22 corresponds to claim 6, claim 23 corresponds to claim 8, claim 24 corresponds to claim 7, claim 25 corresponds to claim 11, claim 26 corresponds to claim 12, claim 27 corresponds to claim 17, claim 28 corresponds to claim 18, claim 29 corresponds to claim 19, and claim 30 corresponds to claim 20, etc.

Applicant respectfully submits that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden to the Examiner. Finally, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant should not be required to incur the additional costs associated with filing of multiple divisional applications in order to obtain protection for the claimed subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Gregg W. Wisdom at (360) 212-8052 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 19th day of October, 2005.

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Respectfully Submitted,
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